

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace drawing sheet 5 (figure 7) with the attached replacement figure.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s) - Drawing sheet 5, figure 7.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been examined and stand rejected.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 27, 2004 and acknowledging the claim for foreign priority.

Claim 3, 8 and 10 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Specification Objections

The Examiner has objected to the: (1) title of the invention; and (2) the phrase “FIG. 5 is a flowchart,” on page 14, line 17 of the specification.

Applicants submit the present amendments to the specification (in accord with the Examiner’s suggestions) obviate these objections.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner objected to the drawings for inconsistent numbering.

Applicants submit herewith a replacement FIG. 7 in which the reference numbers identifying the “INFORMATION STORAGE PART” and the “INFORMATION RETRIEVING PART,” have been changed to render FIG. 7 consistent with the written specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10 under § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner indicates claims 9 and 10 define a computer program embodying functional descriptive material, however, the claims do not define a computer-readable medium and are, thus, non-statutory.

Applicants submit the present amendments to claims 9 and 10 obviate this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 7 and 9 under §102(b) (note: Examiner erroneously indicates this is § 102(c) prior art) as being anticipated by Rhoads (US 6,411,725).

Rhoads relates to watermark enabled video objects. Specifically, watermarks are encoded in a frame area of a particular object, such as where the jersey of the basketball player appears on the video display screen. (col. 5, lines 25-30). The embedding process can encode one or more watermarks into frames of a video sequence. (col. 5, lines 53-54). Additionally, Rhoads discloses that after calculating video object locations, a watermark encoding process 516 encodes an object identifier for each object. This watermark may be encoded in screen locations occupied by a corresponding video object. (col. 9, lines 8-13).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

input means for receiving photographed-image data obtained by photographing an image reproducing medium, on which the information-attached image acquired by the information attaching means is reproduced, with image pick-up means; and

detection means for detecting said information from said photographed-image data for each of said plurality of photographed objects contained in said information-attached image.

In particular, the Examiner seems to allege receiver 106 and watermark decoder 108 correspond to the recited “receiving photographed-image data obtained by *photographing an image reproducing medium*, on which the information-attached image acquired by the information attaching device as set forth in claim 1 is reproduced.” (*Office Action*, p. 8 (rejection of claim 3)) However, this portion of Rhoads is directed to decoding watermarks in video content that is distributed by a transmitter 104 and received by the receiver 106. (col. 4, lines 11-

16). The receiver 106 also places the video content in a format so the watermark decoder 108 can extract auxiliary information. (*Id.*)

Accordingly, Rhoads merely describes receiving *transmitted content*. Neither the portions cited by the Examiner nor any other portion of Rhoads discloses *photographing an image reproducing medium* on which an information-attached image acquired by an information attaching devices is reproduced. Rather, Rhoads merely contemplates transmitting and receiving video content, not photographing an image reproducing medium.

Thus, Applicants submit Rhoads fails to disclose all the features recited in claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 is allowable for at least this reason. Additionally, Applicants submit claim 2 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependency. Further, because claims 7 and 9 recites a feature similar to the feature of claim 1 discussed above, Applicants submit claims 7 and 9 are allowable for the same reasons set forth above.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 3-6, 8 and 10 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads and Narayanaswami et al. (US 2003/0011684). The inclusion of claim 4 in this rejection appears to be in error as the Examiner (in the next rejection) concedes Rhoads and Narayanaswami fail to disclose all the features recited in claim 4. Thus, the rejection of claims 3, 5-6, 8 and 10 are addressed below.

Applicants respectfully submit that because Narayanaswami, either taken alone or in combination with Rhoads, fails to compensate for the above noted deficiency of Rhoads as applied to claims 1, 7 and 9, claims 5-6 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency.

Regarding claims 3, 8 and 10, Applicants submit the rejection of these claims is moot in view of the cancellation these claims by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads in view of Narayanaswami, in further view of Motta et al. (US 6,726,103). Applicants traverse this rejection as follows.

Because Motta, either taken alone or in combination with Rhoads and Narayanaswami, fails to compensate for the above noted deficiencies of the Rhoads as applied to claim 1 above, Applicants submit claim 4 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependency.

New Claims

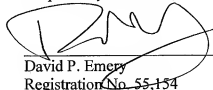
New claims 11 and 12 are hereby added by this Amendment and submitted to be allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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